

Serial No. 10/764,290**Atty. Doc. No. 2001P10197WOUS****REMARKS**

Applicants have amended claims 1-16. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of the pending claims in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Response to Examiner's comment regarding priority:

Examiner has acknowledged Applicant's claim to foreign priority under European patent application No. 01119249.9 EP, filed August 9, 2001. Applicant has requested a certified copy of the priority document and will provide to Examiner when received.

Response to rejections under Section 102:

Claims 1-4, 8-12, and 16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b), the Examiner contending that these claims are anticipated by Bell et al. (USPN 5,080,577). The Examiner apparently reads Bell as disclosing either a pre-mix burner or a gas turbine.

Applicants have amended claim 1 to recite the further limitation that the claimed pre-mix burner arrangement comprises a gas lance located before the combustion material that provides a throughway for fuel to flow to the pilot burner; amended claim 8 to recite the further limitation that the claimed pre-mix burner arrangement comprises a channel for assisting routing of a fuel; and amended claim 10 to include the additional limitation that the claimed pre-mix burner arrangement comprises a pilot fuel channel located upstream of the combustion material. In contrast, Bell does not disclose or suggest a pre-mix burner arrangement comprising any of the recited limitations.

In view of the above, independent claims 1, 8, and 10 are patentable. Dependent claims 2-7, 9, and 12-16 are also patentable at least based on their dependency from independent claims 1, 8, and 10, as well as based on their own merit.

Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the Section 102 rejection.

Conclusion


For the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that the rejections set forth in the outstanding Office Action are inapplicable to the present claims. Accordingly, Applicants

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respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider the rejections and timely pass the application to allowance. Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this paper. The commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any appropriate fees due in connection with this paper, or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 19-2179.

Respectfully submitted,

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